

Hanukkah



What is Hanukkah?

Hanukkah is a Jewish holiday celebrated over eight days and nights.

Hanukkah commemorates the rededication of the Second Temple of Jerusalem. It is also known as the Festival of Lights because candles are lit each night on a lamp known as a Menorah or Hanukkiah.

Hanukkah begins at sundown on November 28th and lasts until December 6, 2021.

1

DID YOU KNOW?

Hanukkah is celebrated at a different time each year because it is based on the Jewish lunar calendar.

2

DEDICATION

The word Hanukkah means dedication and honors the triumph of the Maccabees in reclaiming their temple.

3

TODAY

A Menorah in New York City claims to be the largest in the world. It stands at 32 feet high.



HANUKKAH CUSTOMS

- Lighting the Menorah or Hanukkiah: One candle is lit each of the eight nights using the ninth "helper" candle called the Shamash
- Playing Dreidel: A dreidel is a four sided spinning top. Each side is marked with a Hebrew letter that together mean "A great miracle happened there!"
- Eating fried foods and treats including Latkes (potato pancakes) and Sufganiyot (jelly donuts) and Gelt (chocolate coins)
- Giving gifts and having fun with family and friends!

The Hanukkah Story

When a powerful ruler named Antiochus decreed that Jewish people were not allowed to practice their religion a group known as the Maccabees led a revolt against him. They won back their freedom and returned to their Temple.

Upon arriving at their Temple they found that it had been destroyed. There was only enough oil to light the Menorah for one night, but a miracle occurred and the oil burned for eight whole nights!

People to Know

Antony Blinken: one of President Joe Biden's closest officials. He is currently the Secretary of State.

Natalie Portman: Actress from the Star Wars movies. She was born in Israel and raised in the US. She is a prominent activist for focusing especially on women's rights.

Julian Edelman: A football player on the New England Patriots. He is a wide receiver who has played in three Super Bowls. In 2019 he raised money and donated his cleats to the Pittsburgh Tree of Life Synagogue massacre victims.



Gelt (chocolate coins)

Worldwide

Across the world there are as many as 17.5 million Jewish people. There are many Jews of different heritage including:

- Ashkenazi (Eastern Europe)
- Sephardic (Spain)
- Mizrahi (Middle Eastern)
- Beta Israel (Ethiopia)

There are between 5.7 and 10 million Jewish people in the United States today with New York State having the highest percentage of Jewish Americans.

DIG DEEPER



Visit: Roc Holiday Village on December 5th for a Hanukkah Celebration



Watch: How to Play Dreidel



All About Hanukkah with Mayim Bialik



Listen to: Hanukkah Oh Hanukkah



Latkes



Sufganiyot